BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR
and
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1960

...oooOOOooo...

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1960/61

His Worship the Mayor	Councillor R.D.N.Fabricius
Deputy Mayor	" R.Jolliffe
Aldermen	Mrs.J.M.Addenbrooke
	B.Inett
	E.S.Jones
	J.A.Pittaway
Councillors	J.Baylis
	A.G.Brodrick
	A.G.I.Cardno
	Rev.G.Davies
	R.S.Hallas
	Mrs.T.D.Hammond
	Mrs.E.L.Hatchett
	R.Humphries
	R.Pearson
	H.Roberts

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	L.Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector	Graham L.Robinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. (Certificated Meat and Food Inspector).

Town Hall.

September, 1961.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of
the Droitwich Borough Council.

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

Few changes have occurred in my work during the year, so I propose to analyse certain data extracted from the Registrar General's Statistical Review for 1959.

It behoves the medical profession to periodically sit back and take a wider view of the battlefield in which they work. In whatever sphere of the Health Service one works it is essential to place in perspective those things which are important and those which are not. Time is precious and must be devoted to fighting not only those diseases for which we can do most, but also those which are most fatal.

When one looks at the primary causes of death in England and Wales (on page 4) it is obvious that Items 10-14 and 17-21 are the most important with Nos.23 and 24 of subsidiary importance. Chief amongst the captains of death are cancer and heart disease, but respiratory conditions complete the trio. Of course these diseases occur primarily in the elderly, but not necessarily so. Cancer of the lung is affecting more and more young people, and bronchitis and pneumonia often does so. Poisonous substances in the lung appear to be responsible for these conditions; cigarette smoke in the first instance and the filth of our chimneys in the second; yet there seems to be considerable opposition to efforts to eliminate them.

Next on the list come Accidents (33 and 34) of which over half occur in the home. There is certainly complacency over Home Safety and although the Minister of Transport appears to be making an effort to improve Road Safety, the General Public do not appear to be making the same effort.

The number of Suicides (Item 35) is merely a reflection on the sick society in which we live, from which more and more cases are being admitted to the psychiatric wards. A healthy body needs a healthy mind.

What progress have we made in Medical Science then in the last decade? You will observe that Smallpox is not mentioned amongst the Infectious Diseases. Nevertheless there are scares from time to time, for with modern air travel one never knows where this fatal disease may strike. Diphtheria is eliminated thanks to vigorous immunisation campaigns, but remember there were 84 deaths (England and Wales) in 1949. Deaths from Whooping Cough have fallen very considerably for the same reason, and so have those from Acute Poliomyelitis by almost one tenth. Tuberculosis is still a problem despite modern chemotherapeutic drugs, but the death rate has been reduced to one fifth of what it was 10 years ago. Other diseases which present a problem are Diabetes, Peptic Ulcer and Nephritis, but great strides have been made in their medical and surgical treatment. Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion are also greatly reduced.

Regarding the Vascular catastrophies (17-21) essentially as inevitable terminal events, one is left with Cancer as the great enemy. Medical Research on this subject has advanced to a stage where it seems reasonable to assume that a cure will be found in the foreseeable future. In the

meantime it is our duty to ensure that the General Public are made aware of the early symptoms of the disease and are able to report early for treatment. Health Education is a subject which is always well worth while.

I am, Mr.Mayor,

Your obedient servant,

L.SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

LSS/MGM

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1960	7320
Number of inhabited houses 1960 (according to Rate Books).	2214
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1960	£110,260
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1960	£445

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	62	59	121
Illegitimate	3	3	6

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.96%
Standardised Birth Rate	15.03
Birth Rate - England and Wales	17.1

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	-	Nil
Illegitimate	-	-	Nil

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales	19.7
Total Live and Still Births	127

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Analysis of Deaths	48	50	98

Standardised Death rate	12.56
Death Rate - England and Wales	11.5

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	31.5
Legitimate	33.06
Illegitimate	Nil
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales	21.7

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	23.6
Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales	15.6
Maternal Deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ...	Nil.

Primary causes of death	Male	Female	TOTALS DROITWICH 1960	ENGLAND & WALES 1959	ENGLAND & WALES 1949
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-	3,474	17,471
2. " other	-	-	-	380	2,326
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-	958	1,550
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	84
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	25	527
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	159	287
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	66	643
8. Measles	-	-	-	98	307
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	973	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	1	14,076	14,152
11. " " lung, bronchus	5	1	6	21,063	10,938
12. " " breast	-	3	3	8,770	7,921
13. " " uterus	-	-	-	4,003	4,236
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	5	9	46,671	-
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	2,534	1,703
16. Diabetes	1	-	1	3,193	3,438
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	2	16	75,150	60,051
18. Coronary disease, angina	6	6	12	84,922	48,003
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	4	5	11,375	9,080
20. Other heart diseases	1	14	15	71,837	-
21. Other circulatory diseases	-	-	-	23,571	-
22. Influenza	-	1	1	7,862	5,592
23. Pneumonia	1	5	6	27,340	20,172
24. Bronchitis	3	2	5	29,051	29,385
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1	5,049	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	4,563	4,858
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-	-	2,376	-
28. Nephritis and Pephroses	-	1	1	3,685	6,546
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1	3,505	4,932
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	290	727
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1	4,911	4,644
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	3	7	42,885	-
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1	6,026	3,764
34. All other accidents	2	2	4	11,278	-
35. Suicide	2	-	2	5,207	4,720
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	324	200
End of Section 'A'	48	50	98	527,650	~~268,257~~ 509,973

SECTION 'B' - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. Other Ambulance Stations are situated at Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is situated in Droitwich. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospitals.

(b) Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Services on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help in cases of illness and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are one full-time and seven part-time Home Helps working in the Borough.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service.

Chronic	132	(47)
General	-	(12)
Maternity	23	(46)
Tuberculosis	2	(4)

(figures in brackets are for the previous year).

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domicillary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There are also two part-time Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year, 2,467 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 2,357 the previous year.

The County Council's ante-natal clinic is held on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons in each month at the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. There were only 3 attendances as the Clinic was closed in March. The General Practitioners now carry out the work.

(e) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge, by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1960.

Diphtheria Immunisation (including combined Whooping Cough injections)

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year... ... ... 135 (176)

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year 117 (87)
(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

Diphtheria Immunity Index to 31.12.60

Age on 31.12.60	Under 1 1960	1-4 1956/59	5-9 1951/55	10 - 14 1946/50	Total Under 15
(i) Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in period 1956/60	44	465	544	64	1117
(ii) Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in period 1955 or earlier			247	569	816

(iii) Estimated Mid-year child population 1730

Immunity Index 100/A/C $\frac{1117}{1730} \times 100 = 64\%$

Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year 132 (138)

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year ... Nil (2)

(f) Admissions to Part III Accommodation - National Assistance Act, 1948.

No formal action was necessary during the Year.

2. Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Birmingham.

(ii) Cases of Infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

(iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home, are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove, Evesham and Ronkswood.

(iv) Sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.

(v) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic diseases, and there is a flourishing Out-patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 60 beds and St.John's Hospital 64 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the Home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which, due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.

End of Section 'B'

SECTION 'C' - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

As a result of the Minister's proposals that Local Authorities should co-operate in the formation of Joint Water Boards, negotiations were entered into with the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company for the sale of the Borough Council's water undertaking to them. The date of transfer was fixed for 31st March, 1960 and has now taken place.

The majority of dwelling houses in the Town have a water supply direct from the public mains, with the exception of outlying farms and cottages, which have a supply from wells.

Number of standpipes in the area	10
Number of wells in the area	16

REPORT OF COUNTY ANALYST ON SAMPLE OF TOWN WATER

Colour	Colourless
Odour	None
Appearance	Clear pH.7.5

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per million).

Solids in suspension	(Dried at 100° C)	-
" " solution	(Dried at 180° C)	265
" " "	(After ignition)	230
Chlorides calculated as common salt		21
Hardness, permanent		90
" temporary		125
" total		215
Free and saline Ammonia		0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia		Trace
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)		8.7
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)		Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C(N/80 Permanganate)		Nil
Toxic Metals		None detected

Opinion

The Chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory.

Date 24th October, 1960. Signed M.M.Love
County Analyst.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) in two days at 37°	Nil per 100 ml.
(b) Faecal Coli	" " 100 ml.

Opinion

The sample is fit for drinking.

Date 21st October, 1960. Signed. R.J.Henderson, M.B., Ch.B.

An attempt by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company to improve the pressure to various high-lying parts of the town, resulted in an unprecedented number of bursts for a month or two. Unsatisfactory samples were obtained from a few properties in close proximity to the fractured mains and also from the bottom of the reservoir, on one occasion. Bulk chlorination soon rectified the position and satisfactory samples have subsequently been obtained (as above).

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Efforts were made during the year to provide a solution to the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal problems in the town, despite the fact that no definite decision had been made on the acceptance or rejection of Birmingham Overspill population.

Agreement was reached with the County Council for the provision of a temporary scheme which would relieve the surcharged condition of some of the sewers in the town, and also provide more efficient treatment at the disposal works.

Approval has been given to the following work being carried out:-

(a) Provision of surcharge relief pumps in High Street area.

(b) Construction of a permanent sewer draining from Stalls Farm Estate to the bridge conveying the Ombersley Road over the Canal.

(c) Construction of a temporary pumping station near the above bridge and a rising main thence to the existing works.

(d) Construction of a balancing tank and sludge lagoon at the existing disposal works.

(e) Provision of additional pumps at the disposal works together with the relaying of certain pipework.

This work can only be regarded as a temporary expedient, careful consideration being given to the resiting of the Sewage Disposal Works as soon as Overspill negotiations have been completed.

3. Droitwich Sea Bathing Lido

Little difficulty was experienced in maintaining the pumps and filters in a satisfactory condition during the year and bacteriological samples from the side of the bath were of a high standard at all times. The need for a constant vigil by a lifeguard over swimmers in the deep end has now been fully justified by the number of occasions when a catastrophe has been averted. Parental control over non-swimmers is also too frequently lacking, and the general public must realise that children are their own responsibility.

4. Refuse Disposal

Owing to the difficulty in finding suitable alterative sites for refuse disposal it was decided to raise the level of the present tip adjacent to King George's Playing Fields by adding an additional layer of refuse. In the meantime negotiations with Bromsgrove U.D.C. have been opened to see whether the joint use of an Incineration Plant is feasible.

5. Mortuary

Satisfactory arrangements have now been made for the reception of Droitwich cases at Martley mortuary. This means that the unsatisfactory old building in Friar Street has been closed.

It is hoped that provision for a new mortuary will be included in the Development Plan for the Borough particularly if the population is going to increase considerably due to the reception of Overspill. Other factors which must be taken into consideration are the fact that the new motorway may result in an increased number of fatal accidents, and no facilities are at present available in the Rural District.

End of Section 'C'

SECTION 'D' - HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out during 1960:-

Number of new houses erected:-

(1)	By the Local Authority	Nil
(2)	By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3)	By other bodies or persons	51

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	101
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	143
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	67
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	109
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	10
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	20

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	16

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(1)	Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.	None
	(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:-	
	By Owners	None
	By Local Authority in default of owners	None
(2)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	1

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices

By Owners	1
By Local Authority in default of Owners	None

(3) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	9
(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6

(4) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	1
(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	None

Housing Act, 1957, Part IV. Overcrowding

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year:-	8
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	9
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	67
(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	8
(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	1
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases.	3
(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil

End of Section 'D'

SECTION 'E' - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspection of Food Premises within the Borough was carried out throughout the year by the Public Health Inspector. Generally speaking the standard set by the Catering Industry is excellent, and most shop premises satisfactory. No serious complaints were received during the year.

There is one manufacturer and thirty five retailers of Ice-Cream registered by the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Three premises are registered as Dairies under the Milk and Dairies Regulations and six dealers distribute milk within the Borough. Licences issued during the year were for the following designations.

Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested	4
Pasteurised only	2

Routine meat inspection was carried out by the Public Health Inspector at the one private slaughterhouse operating in the Borough and the quantity of meat dealt with is shown on the following table:-

Schedule of Meat inspected during 1960

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) approx.	67	-	8	382	163
Number inspected	67	-	8	382	163
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	6	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	1.5%	-	-	1.8	.6%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticerosis	-	-	-	-	-

End of Section 'E'

SECTION 'F'

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table:-

Disease	Total Cases	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Tuberculosis	3	3	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Dysentery	2	-	-

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups:-

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	T.B.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	-	1	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-
5 years	3	3	-	-	-
10 years	-	1	-	1	1
15 years	-	-	-	-	-
20 years	-	-	1	1	1
35 years	-	-	-	-	1
45 & over	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	5	1	2	3

Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis which occurred during the year are shown below:-

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
Age Periods	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1960 are shown below:-

	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1960	20	19	1	9
Additions to register during the year - New Cases	2	1	-	-
- Others	1	-	-	-
	23	20	1	9
Deductions from register during the year	8	4	-	-
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1960.	15	16	1	9

Meetings of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire were held quarterly. This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculosis patients and their families.

End of Section 'F'

SECTION 'G'

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health were made as follows:-

1.	(a)	Number of Factories on register in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authority	55
		Number of Inspections made	15
	(b)	Number of Factories not included above, in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	Nil
		Number of Inspections made	Nil
	(c)	Number of other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	Nil
		Number of Inspections made	Nil
2.		Cases in which Defects were found	2
3.		Number of Out-workers in list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (3)	Nil

End of Section 'G'

Borough Surveyor's Department,
Town Hall,
Droitwich.

September, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report (the 16th) upon my duties as Public Health Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor during the year 1960. On examining the report it will be noted that little progress appears to have been actually made regarding Town Development and the improvement of the Sewage Disposal Works and Sewerage Scheme. A definite step forward has taken place concerning the Canal Scheme and it seems hopeful that this scheme may be finalised in 1961 and completed in 1962.

With the fact that no Council houses have been built during the year, and slum clearance has been pressed on with, the position has again been reached where there is a very definite waiting list of difficult cases for re-housing. The problem will be noticed of the difficulty of finding adequate land for Council housing until the short term sewerage scheme has been completed.

The number of private houses in course of erection was less as will be seen in the number of inspections made under the Building Byelaws.

Quite a number of improvement schemes in respect of highways, playing fields and other amenities are before you, together with the very necessary street lighting modernisation and improvement scheme. 1960 has been a year of preparatory work and it is hoped that many of these schemes will reach fruition in 1961.

My thanks once again go to your Council for your continued support and understanding during the year, and to the Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health and the staff of my own Department and other colleagues for the very helpful and co-operative way they work with me.

Inspections and visits made during 1960 are as follows:-

Visits to direct labour and contract works...	203
Inspections of new buildings under Building Byelaws ...	381
Inspections re maintenance of highways	198
Inspections re public water supply	7
Inspections re factories including bakehouses	15
Inspections of food shops and catering premises ...	39
Inspection of Slaughterhouse	117
Visits to Council Houses re repairs	290
Visits re supervision of sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tip	84
Visits re supervision of Lido, Parks and Public Open Spaces	336
Visits re Canal Scheme	24
Samples taken for analysis, including milk, sewage, water, ice cream, swimming bath water and trade effluents	47

Number of houses inspected for housing defects, including re-visits	143
Visits of inspection for preparation of schemes for housing and other work, and advise re planning and building byelaws	67
Inspections as a result of flooding	57
Inspection of houses regarding grants or in course of improvement	19
Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded	73

New Housing

During 1960 no houses or other dwellings were built by the Council although the Housing Committee were actively engaged in obtaining a contract from Messrs.Selleck Nicholls, Williams Ltd., for the erection of 20 - 1-bedroom flats and 4 bungalows, and although approval was received upon 3rd May, the work was not in fact commenced until 29th November.

The block of property known as Brookside, Vines Lane was acquired by the Council, demolished and a contract for the erection of bungalows on the site was let.

In the meantime the demand for houses builds up, there being none available. Further, the sites which can be used in view of the need for supplementary drainage in the Town is very limited. Investigation of a number of sites was carried out, but in each instance for a variety of reasons development did not proceed. It is hoped that a short-term sewerage scheme will be well in hand during 1961 so that active steps in planning and the re-commencement of a building programme can be underway.

A scheme for the erection of 6 houses for sale was being negotiated with Messrs.Selleck Nicholls, Williams Ltd. Policy upon this matter was agreed and applications to purchase invited.

Private building continued on the New Witton Estate and off Holloway Road, a further estate being laid out in Holloway Road with sewers and carriageways, and it is anticipated that building on this site will commence in 1961.

The Council made 8 loans and 5 guarantees to enable the purchase of private houses under the Housing Act, 1949.

The Council actively continued their slum clearance programme. A Closing Order was placed on 1 and Demolition Orders on 9 houses.

Following a census of Council Houses, it is still very apparent that some 10% are underoccupied, and if this under-occupation could be solved, individual houses would become available to deal with the slum clearance problem.

Housing Circumstances within the Borough

During the year, the following demolition and closing orders were made:-

Nos. 16, 18, & 20, Hampton Road	-	Demolition Order
Nos. 66, 67, 68 & 69, Holloway	-	" "
No.55A High Street	-	Closing Order
Nos. 16 & 18, Covercroft	-	Demolition

Unfortunately this work is coming to a standstill owing to the Council's inability to re-house tenants until further dwellings have been built.

The making of Improvement Grants continued and although not large in number, where the improvements have been made, very useful modernisation of property lacking modern amenities has been carried out.

Improvement Grants

The Council continued their policy of making improvement grants for the reconditioning and improvement of houses and during the year the following grants were given.

Mr.L.W.Johnson, 28, Oakland Avenue	£400. 0. 0d.
Mr.A.F.Andrews, Chapel House, Hanbury Road,	£155. 0. 0d.

Council House Management

There have been no additional Council dwellings during the past year, the Council owning 714 dwellings varying in size from one bedroom bungalows to a small number of five bedroom houses.

No new houses were built during the year and only 13 applicants for Council houses were re-housed as a result of vacancies occurring amongst existing houses.

The waiting list for houses extended although fewer applications were received than has been the case in previous years. I find on examination that there are now 60 applicants with points between 40 and 60, the majority of whom are persons with families. It is very apparent that the building programme will have to be re-commenced at an early date if this list is to be kept within reasonable proportions.

Again as there were few new tenancies, the number of transfers was less, being 9 in number. It is interesting to note that for the five months August to December, no vacancies occurred amongst your house tenancies and no-one was re-housed.

A draft scheme for the improvement of 32 houses was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The houses in question were the old 1919 and 1913 schemes and the scheme consisted of the building at the back of the houses of a bathroom and the removal of the coalhouse and W.C. taking up space in the kitchen to give much larger kitchen accommodation with a Rayburn cooker. The work of preparing a scheme for the invitation of tenders was in hand at the end of the year.

The Council decided upon granting permission where space was available for Council house tenants to erect suitable garages to be either of a design agreed by the Council or the Council to erect and rent the garage to the tenant. Several of these were built very successfully.

There is no doubt that in the future there will have to be sufficient space upon each housing estate to allow one garage per dwelling.

Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

Slaughtering continued during the year at the slaughterhouse owned by Messrs.Levett & Hill, and the following carcasses were inspected.

Oxen	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
67	8	163	382

161½ lbs of meat were voluntarily surrendered by the butcher as being unfit for food. 610 lbs of meat were destroyed as a result of contamination by flood water.

Inspection of all meat slaughtered within the Borough has continued.

The slaughterhouse licence has been renewed temporarily and Messrs.Levett & Hill have made arrangements to slaughter at the new abattoir in Bromsgrove when it is completed. After that date their slaighterhouse licence will lapse.

Food Premises

The following food premises were in operation within the Borough:-

Hotels	5
Cafe's	7
Canteens	4
Grocers	25
Butchers	10
Fishmongers	3

Inspections have been carried out from time to time, particularly at the canteens situated at the local factories. Generally speaking, these have been maintained in reasonable condition, though in two instances the attention of the management was called to unsatisfactory practices. An improvement has resulted.

48½ lbs of tinned food were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily destroyed by the owners concerned.

Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year:-

Ice Cream	5
Town Water	31
Sewage Effluent	2
Lido Water	6
Well Water	1
Trade Effluent	2

Scavenging and Public Cleansing

House refuse has been collected from each dwelling within the Borough once each week and from the larger hotels three times weekly. Disposal is by controlled tipping. The present tip is practically completed and owing to there being no alternative tip, a further layer of refuse has to be laid on top of the existing tip. Whilst this permits easy tipping in all weathers, it is rather unfortunate that the eventual tipping area will be lifted above the level of the surrounding land.

An approach has been made to the Bromsgrove Urban District Council with a view to possible co-operation in the provision of an incinerator, and the latter has agreed to keep the Borough Council informed of developments.

With the rapid growth of the Borough a second lorry to supplement collection will before long have to be brought into use.

Salvage was collected and the following materials were disposed of:-

	T.	C.	Q		
Mixed Waste Paper	24	15	3	value	£185.18.1d.
Scrap iron	5	6	2	"	37. 5.6d.
					£ 223. 3.7d.

Street cleansing has been continued by means of the electric street orderly truck and by individual trucks. Here also, with the extension of the streets in the Town, it will be necessary before very long, probably in the next estimates, for a further electric truck to be purchased and the present system extended.

Rodent Control

The regular and systematic survey of the Borough has reduced the rodent population very considerably and the amount of work required by the Rodent Operator is consequently reduced. Statistics are attached showing the number of inspections made and work done in this connection.

Highways

With the commencement of the motor road, it immediately became necessary for major alterations and improvements to be made to the Holloway, consisting of the widening of Holloway Road from its junction with Elizabeth Avenue through to the Borough boundary. This widening took place and a footpath was made right through to Orchardlea. This very useful improvement would most certainly not have resulted except for the motor road and whilst the carriageway requires regulating, kerbing and surfacing, a general widening and betterment of sight lines has resulted. On the completion of the motorway, steps will be taken to regulate and surface this road.

The new estate belonging to Messrs.Geo.Bourne Ltd., was opened up and the highways were constructed.

Old Coach Road

With the growth of the schools in Old Coach Road and consequently greatly increased traffic, the need for the widening of this narrow thoroughfare becomes more and more apparent. The Council has asked for a scheme to be prepared, but owing to lack of staff this has not yet been possible.

Union Lane

With the development of Union Lane on both sides nearing completion, the reconstruction of this road becomes possible and a scheme was being prepared at the end of the year.

Street Lighting

A scheme for the modernisation of the street lighting on the A.38 and the Town Centre, together with the provision of additional lamps in various parts of the district roads was being prepared.

Car Parking and Traffic

The Council were giving consideration to the making of High Street and St.Andrew's Street into one way streets, and the improvement of the car parks.

Sewage Works

Your Manager, Mr.L.Brant left for another appointment and in his stead Mr.E.Hood of Whitchurch was appointed. Mr.Hood has made a good start in managing the works.

The works still continue in their very overloaded condition, but with the proposal to implement the sedimentation tanks and provide additional sludge storage, it is hoped that conditions will at least be prevented from deteriorating further.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

The sewers were extended from Tagwell Road along Holloway Road to the Vicarage enabling the connection to the sewer of a number of houses whose drainage discharged into a cesspool.

A sewer was extended along Pridzor Road allowing three new houses to be connected to it.

Following extensive discussions with the County Council it was found impossible to site the new sewage works or decide on the size of the plant. It was therefore decided to carry out short-term works consisting of improvements to the present works, disconnection of certain areas of the Town from the existing sewers and the laying of new sewers to deal with the drainage of these particular areas, so relieving some of the surcharged pipes.

Flooding

In January, following very heavy rainfall a major flood from the River Salwarpe occurred in High Street, Queen Street and the adjoining car park which were flooded to a depth of several feet. As a result the Council asked the Severn River Board to prepare a flood prevention scheme to consist of banking along the Salwarpe and the cutting off of the canal basin. This scheme was prepared and the Ministry agreed to contribute to the cost and by the end of the year it was substantially complete.

Water Supply

On 1st April your water undertaking was transferred to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company and therefore the customary statistics are not included. The Company took steps to improve pressures in the Town which had been difficult during past years with the increasing developments and particularly owing to the limitation of supply laid down by the agreement with the Company, which made the increase of pressure by the Corporation difficult. It is understood that the Company are taking steps to increase some water main sizes which will improve supplies in various higher points of the Town.

Parks and Open Spaces

Open spaces generally, including the Vines Park were maintained in as a good condition as the labour available would permit.

Unfortunately early in the season the Head Gardener was taken seriously ill and was unable to work for the remainder of the year, and most regrettably the second gardener collapsed and died during the Summer, which made the work of the department very difficult.

The Vines Bowling Green is continuing to improve, and many expressions of satisfaction were received from the users of the green.

Considerable effort was made to obtain approval to an extension of the King George Playing Field, and a grant was promised by the King George Playing Fields Trust for the extension of the field over Poplars Meadow to Ombersley Road, also to include the construction of a new cricket pavilion. At the end of the year a scheme had been approved and tenders obtained and the extension of the field will afford a much wanted improvement.

Droitwich Park and Lido

The Park and Lido were maintained in satisfactory condition during the year. The earlier part of the season was an excellent one for the Lido, but the latter months of the Summer were wet.

The Council were able to begin improvements at the Lido. An attractive kidney-shaped paddling pool was constructed on the site of toilets which were very little used. Modern chlorination and filtration plant was attached to the paddling pool to maintain the water in good and pure condition.

Extensions to the sun bathing areas were made, and these were appreciated by the many sunbathers during the warm days.

The children's playground was commenced at the latter part of the year at the southern end of the Park. This land is extremely wet, and sizeable drainage works had to be carried out before the playground equipment could be placed in position. The particularly wet autumn greatly hindered the drainage work which was in progress at the end of the year.

The new bowling pavilion was appreciated by the Bowling Club and greatly enhanced the appearance of the green.

At the end of the year the materials from the old bowling pavilion were being used to build a new pavilion for the tennis courts.

Planning

During the year a lot of problems relating to planning were encountered, many of them arising from the fact that there is no Town Map and the uncertainty of development, no decision having been reached upon Town development as a whole. A matter of major importance was the agreement with the Worcestershire County Council upon the interim sewerage scheme and improvements at the sewage works which it is hoped will be carried out during the coming year and which will enable some further development in the Town to take place.

Court proceedings were taken against Mr.F.L.Evans of Tower Hill for his continued use of premises adjoining the Old Smithy as a factory. The Magistrates issued an order requiring the cessation of this use and following the continuance of work at the factory a further hearing took place and a fine was imposed.

Mr.Evans also deposited plans for factory premises on this particular site and these were refused. He then appealed to the Minister and in due course after a Public Inquiry, the Minister confirmed the refusal.

St.Andrew's House Estate

Negotiations for the development of this site proceeded and it was eventually agreed that development would be permitted when the short-term sewerage scheme was commenced, the development to be phased in accordance with the progress of the scheme.

Chorley House

This old property with adjoining cottages had deteriorated so badly that the owners decided to demolish them. When the front part had been pulled down much of the back became exposed and it was apparent that it was an ancient building probably of some historic value. Mr.Charles, Architect of Bromsgrove, took the matter up with the owners and the Council, urging that the structure should be retained and brought back into service and as a result demolition ceased. A hoarding was erected round the front whilst negotiations for the reconstruction of the property proceeded.

Industrial Development

No new industrial development took place during the year although the premises built at the Berry Hill Estate were completed and brought into occupation, as was the new factory upon Navigation Meadow. Plans were deposited for a further factory at the Berry Hill Estate, but the developers were at first unable to obtain an Industrial Development Certificate. It is pleasing to note that after representation by the Borough Council the Certificate was eventually granted.

Droitwich Canal

During the year the Ministry enquired into the scheme for the abandonment of the canal and tentative approval was given subject to drainage now entering the surface water drains of the town and discharging into the canal being disconnected and reconnected to the sewer and also to agreement with the Rural District Council upon drainage problems at Salwarpe.

An extensive survey was made in the lower part of the town and several drains were found discharging into the storm sewer. Efforts were being made to arrange for them to be disconnected.

Mortuary

No further action has been taken regarding the proposal for a new mortuary.

I am,
Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

GLR/MGM.

RODENT CONTROL

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other including Business & Industrial	TOTAL	Agricultural
1. Total No. of Properties in Borough	9	2167	196	2372	10
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	7	5	12	-
(b) Survey under the Act	9	304	23	336	2
(c) Otherwise	-	-	-	-	-
3. No. of properties inspected (in Sect.II) found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	5	12	3	20	1
(b) Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	3	5	8	-
4. No. of infested properties (in Sect IV) treated.	5	15	8	28	1
5. No. of notices served under Section 4 of Act					
(a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

GLR/MGM.

Industrial development

Private development commenced at the Berry Hill Industrial Estate with the laying out of roads and sewers. This development is of an attractive design and should provide a good standard of factory on the Estate. Three new factories were erected and almost completed during the year, Messrs.Barton Rivet Co.Ltd., Trinity Engineering and Messrs.Kenwood Electrics, all on this site.

On the other side of the road upon Navigation Meadow, British Industrial Engineering commenced development laying a sewer across the river into the trunk sewer of the Council, and commencing the erection of their first factory.

Land leased by the Council to Messrs.Harrison Smith Buildings is practically developed. Unfortunately it has at present a somewhat untidy appearance.

Droitwich Canal

A scheme was prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval for the complete abandonment of the canal and the provision of the appropriate balancing reservoir. At the end of the year the Public Inquiry into the scheme was awaited.

Mortuary

No further action was taken regarding the development and provision of a new mortuary.

I am,
Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

RODENT CONTROL

Type of Property

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other including Business & Industrial	Total	Agricultural
1. Total No. of Properties in Borough.	9	2044	188	2232	10
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	2	4	6	-
(b) Survey under the Act	9	367	25	401	4
(c) Otherwise	-	-	-	-	-
3. No. of properties inspected (in Sect.II) found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	5	9	4	18	2
(b) Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	2	2	4	-
4. No.of infested properties (in Sect IV) treated	5	11	6	22	2
5. No.of notices served under Section 4 of Act.					
(a) Treatment	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing).	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL